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## **CEQA Filing Fee No Effect Determination**

Applicant Name and Address: Central Valley Water Quality Control Board

CEQA Lead Agency: Central Valley Water Quality Control Board

**Project Title:** Proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin Rivers Basins to Establish Salinity Water Quality Objectives in the Lower San Joaquin River (Mouth of Merced to Vernalis)

**CEQA Document Type:** Certified Regulatory Program

State Clearinghouse Number/local agency ID number: Unassigned

Project Location: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced counties

Brief Project Description: Establish salinity water quality objectives (WQOs) for electrical conductivity to protect the beneficial uses in the Lower San Joaquin River (LSJR). Establish an electrical conductivity performance goal to promote achievement of the best possible water quality under variable conditions. Implementing actions specific to this project include reducing point and nonpoint sources of salinity through: 1) Publicly owned treatment works implementation of their salinity management requiring industrial control of salts in discharges to sewer systems, and 2) stakeholder reduction of salts through high efficiency irrigation, improved fertilizer management, or other measures aimed at reduced application of chemicals containing salt. Other actions that will assist in meeting the WQOs are scheduled to occur independently of this project and therefore are not part of this project.

**Determination:** Based on a review of the project as proposed, the Department of Fish and Wildlife has determined that for purposes of the assessment of CEQA filing fees (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (c)) the project has no effect on fish, wildlife or their habitat and the project as described does not require payment of a CEQA filing fee. This determination does not in any way imply that the project is exempt from CEQA and does not determine the significance of any potential project effects evaluated pursuant to CEQA.

Please retain this original determination for your records. Local lead agencies are required to file two copies of this determination with the county clerk at the time of filing the Notice of Determination (NOD) after the project is approved. State lead agencies are required to file two copies of this determination with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (i.e., State Clearinghouse) at the time of filing the NOD. If you do not file a copy of this determination as appropriate with the county clerk or State Clearinghouse at the time of filing the NOD, the appropriate CEQA filing fee will be due and payable.

James Brownell, Engineering Geologist Central Valley Water Quality Control Board June 27, 2017 Page 2

Without a valid CEQA Filing Fee No Effect Determination form or proof of fee payment, the project will not be operative, vested, or final and any local permits issued for the project will be invalid, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 711.4, subdivision (c)(3).

Approved by:

Signature

Date:

Ryan Mathis, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)

Name, Title

## FOR COUNTY CLERK USE ONLY

Stamp or initial inside the box to indicate acceptance of this signed No Effect Determination in lieu of a CEQA Document Filing Fee.

County Clerk Stamp or Initial